

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 236929

71

ORIGIN EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 IO-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 EUR-10 PM-03 H-01 NSC-10

NSCE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 /074 R

DRAFTED BY EA/GRK: GTCHURCHILL:PR

APPROVED BY NEA - JJSISCO

NEA - MR. DAVIES

S/S-O: R. ELTZ

----- 020067

P R 040235Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 236929

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR, US

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR SOROKOS CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RODGER DAVIES ON DEC. 3, TO DISCUSS GREEK SITUATION AND MID-EAST DEVELOPMENTS. FOLLOWING POINTS WERE COVERED IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON GREECE.

2. FOLLOWING LINES OF PRIME MINISTER ANDROUTSOPOULOS' STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 28, SOROKOS REITERATED POINT THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN GREECE'S FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN THE IMPORTANCE GREECE ATTACHES TO THE ALLIANCE AND ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH U.S. GREEK REGIME COULD UNDERSTAND THE INTEREST OTHER COUNTRIES FEEL IN DEVELOPMENTS IN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 236929

GREECE, BUT IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT GREEK DOMESTIC

PROBLEMS ARE FOR GREECE TO RESOLVE.

3. MR. DAVIES SAID WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED OUR STRONG INTEREST IN OUR RELATIONS WITH GREECE, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THIS ATTITUDE. THE PEOPLES OF GREECE AND THE U.S. HAVE A SHARED INTEREST ON MANY LEVELS, NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS IN SECURITY MATTERS. WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF GREECE'S ROLE IN NATO. OUR COOPERATIVE RELATIONS IN THE SECURITY FIELD HAD CONTRIBUTED TO MAINTENANCE OF A STRONG POLITICAL-MILITARY POSTURE WHICH WAS HELPFUL IN STANDING DOWN THE SOVIETS IN OCTOBER. OUR

POLICY TOWARD GREECE HAS BEEN MADE QUITE CLEAR IN THE PAST. WE CONSIDER THAT OUR RELATIONS ARE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, NOT WITH ANY PARTICULAR REGIME IN GREECE. WE BELIEVE A CONSTITUTIONAL BASE PROVIDES THE BEST ASSURANCE FOR STABILITY, BUT THIS IS A GREEK PROBLEM, NOT FOR OUTSIDERS TO RESOLVE. IN RESOLVING ITS PROBLEMS, WE HOPE GREECE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO REMOVE DIFFICULTIES THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF A SMOOTH INTERACTION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. THAT TOO, HOWEVER, IS A GREEK PROBLEM. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION IN GREECE CLOSELY AND SYMPATHETICALLY. WE WILL TRY NOT TO TAKE POSITIONS THAT WILL MAKE GREECE'S PROBLEMS ANY MORE DIFFICULT.

4. SOROKOS SAID HE HAD NO DIRECT INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW REGIME'S PROGRAM, BUT HE BELIEVED THE LEADERS WERE TRYING TO DEVELOP A BALANCED POLICY. INSTEAD OF RUSHING INTO HASTY ELECTIONS IN MARCH OR APRIL AS PAPA-DOPOULOS INTENDED, THE REGIME WOULD ADOPT A SLOWER PACE PERHAPS HOLDING MORE REALISTIC ELECTIONS BY THE END OF 1974 WITH A WIDER PARTICIPATION THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE UNDER THE PAPADOPOULOS-MARKEZINIS SCHEME. SOROKOS WAS SURE DEFINITE INFORMATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN THE NEXT DAYS OR WEEKS.

5. SOROKOS HAD HEARD THAT SENATOR PELL HAD AGAIN PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE ACT CUTTING OFF FUNDS TO GREECE. HE FELT THE HASTINESS OF THIS MOVE INDICATED THAT THE SENATOR WAS ACTING PERHAPS ON THE ILL-SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 236929

CONSIDERED ADVICE OF OTHERS, WITHOUT TAKING TIME TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. MR. DAVIES SAID THAT IN CONTACTS WITH THE CONGRESS HE HAD TAKEN THE POSITION THAT WE WERE WATCHING GREEK DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND WITH SYMPATHETIC CONCERN, BUT IT WAS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON THE DIRECTION THIS REGIME MIGHT TAKE. WE WILL BE TELLING PEOPLE LIKE SENATOR PELL THAT THE COMPLEX DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM IS ONE WHICH ONLY THE GREEKS

CAN RESOLVE AND THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

6. SOROKOS SAID HE HAD INDICATED TO FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER PALAMAS HIS WISH TO RETURN TO ATHENS BECAUSE OF FAMILY PROBLEMS. HE HAS REPEATED THIS REQUEST TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE INITIAL REACTION WAS TO ASK HIM TO STAY ON IN WASHINGTON, BUT HE WILL HAVE TO INSIST ON RETURNING FAIRLY SOON. MR. DAVIES EXPRESSED SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING, AND APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK THE AMBASSADOR HAS DONE HERE. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, AMBASSADORS, MEETINGS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE236929
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GTCHURCHILL:PR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731246/aaaabhsg.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, (SOROKOS)
To: ATHENS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005